

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12114

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, VS

SUBJECT: BUI DIEM ON VISIT TO JAKARTA

REF: JAKARTA 11333

1. AT LUNCH SEPTEMBER 17 AMBASSADOR BUI DIEM, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO JAKARTA ON BEHALF OF GVN (REFTEL),

GAVE BENNETT AND ME THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS TALKS WITH FOREIGN

MINISTER MALIK. (DIEM HAD TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS WITH MALIK ON ONE DAY FOLLOWED BY BOTH A WORKING LUNCH AND WORKING DINNER THE NEXT DAY).

2. ICCS. MALIK TOLD DIEM THAT INDONESIA COULD NOT REMAIN "EVERLASTINGLY" IN SVN AS A MEMBER OF THE ICCS. ALTHOUGH THE INDODEL HAS DONE ITS VERY BEST TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, NO VISIBLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. THIS IS WHY THE GOI HAS HAD TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING ITS DELEGATION.

3. DIEM REPLIED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR INDONESIA TO BE PATIENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THREE YEARS AGO NOBODY WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COULD SIGN A DOCUMENT LIKE THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WE MUST NOT RULE OUT ANOTHER SUCH BREAK-THROUGH. AS THE GVN IMPROVES ITS POSITION AND AS IT BECOMES CLEARER AND CLEARER TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THAT THEY CANNOT TAKE SVN BY
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FORCE, IT MAY WELL BE THAT HANOI WILL PERMIT FULL IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE AGREEMENT AS BOTH THE GVN AND THE GOI DESIRE. DIEM TOLD MALIK THAT INDONESIA IS AN IMPORTANT POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND MUST PLAY ITS ROLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE REGION.

4. CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. DIEM PROPOSED COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE GOI-GVN DIFFERENCES OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMS, BUT FOUND MALIK NOT GREATLY INTERESTED. HOWEVER, DIEM FELT THAT "THE GENERALS" IN THE GOI DO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO REACHING A SOLUTION AND HE THEREFORE HOPED THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN BEFORE LONG.

5. GOI POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. BUI DIEM MADE A MAJOR PITCH TO MALIK FOR GOI SUPPORT AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE TOOK MALIK TO TASK FOR INDONESIA'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE "PRG" AT THE GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE EARLY THIS YEAR. MALIK RESPONDED THAT GOI SUPPORTED THE "PRG" AT GENEVA BECAUSE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE WAS "HUMANITARIAN". DIEM POINTED OUT THAT ONE CAN ARGUE THAT ALMOST EVERY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IS HUMANITARIAN FROM SOME POINT OF VIEW AND USING THIS ARGUMENT "PRG" COULD DEMAND GOI SUPPORT AT ALMOST ANY MEETING. DIEM STATES THAT HE PERSUADED MALIK TO AGREE THAT GOI WOULD "SUPPORT" GVN POSITION AT ALL CONFERENCES EXCEPT THOSE WHICH CAN PROPERLY BE CALLED HUMANITARIAN BY A "NARROW DEFINITION" OF THAT WORD.

6. DIEM ASKED MALIK WHETHER GVN DELEGATION AT A GIVEN CONFERENCE COULD APPEAL DIRECTLY TO MALIK HIMSELF, EITHER THROUGH GOI DELEGATION OR THROUGH GVN REPRESENTATIVE IN JAKARTA, IN EVENT GVN LEARNS GOI DELEGATION INTENDING TO VOTE FOR "PRG". ACCORDING TO DIEM, MALIK AGREED TO THIS.

7. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. DIEM MADE A LONG PRESENTATION TO MALIK AGAIN PROPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MALIK SAID THIS WOULD COME IN TIME BUT THAT THE GVN WOULD HAVE TO BE "PATIENT". DIEM SEEMED PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED EVEN THIS HIGHLY QUALIFIED COMMITMENT. HE TOLD US HE THOUGHT GOI WAS DELAYING FAVORABLE DECISION BECAUSE SUHARTO NEEDED TIME TO DEAL WITH LEFTIST HOLDOVERS IN HIS GOVERNMENT.

8. COMMENT. DIEM WAS CLEARLY TALKING ABOUT FULL FORMAL
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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND NOT ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULATE GENERAL AS REPORTED REFTEL AND I AM SURE THIS IS HOW HE REPORTED TO PRESIDENT THIEU AND FOREIGN MINISTER BAC. WHILE A CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD OF COURSE BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER EXISTING "CHAMBERS DE COMMERCE", IT WOULD NOT SATISFY THE GVN, PARTICULARLY SINCE INDONESIA HAS ALREADY EXCHANGED EMBASSIES WITH HANOI.

9. CONCERNING PRESS RUMORS THAT DIEM WAS IN JAKARTA ON A SECRET MISSION TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, DIEM EXPRESSED AMUSEMENT AND NOTED, WITH REASON, THAT THESE REPORTS DO THE GVN PUBLIC IMAGE NO HARM.
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